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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

Second periodic reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant concerning rights covered by articles 10 to 12, in accordance with the second stage of the programme established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1988 (LX)

Addendum

CYPRUS */

[30 January 1989]

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*/ This document contains supplementary information to the second periodic report submitted by the Government of Cyprus on 26 September 1985, concerning rights covered by articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant (E/1986/4/Add.2).

The initial report submitted by the Government of Cyprus concerning righhts covered by articles 10 to 12 of the Covenant (E/1986/6/Add.3) was considered by the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts at its 1981 session (see E/1981/WG.1/SR.6).

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Chapter I

ARTICLE 10: PROTECTION OF THE FAMILY, MOTHERS AND CHILDREN

A. Protection of the family

1. Since Cyprus submitted its initial and second periodic reports, the following additional developments have taken place:

(a) A law reform committee on family law has been set up in the Ministry of Justice. It has been entrusted with the task of modernizing the family law, bringing the existing law in line with the provisions of international conventions in this field. The committee has completed its work and has submitted a final report containing suggestions on the following chapters:

(i) Adoption of children; (ii) Legal status of children born out of wedlock; (iii) Relations of parents and children-maintenance; (iv) Property rights of spouses - alimony; (v) Marriage and divorce.

(b) The Department of Welfare Services of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance is operating since 1985 a Family Guidance Centre which offers assistance to families and children who suffer from emotional disturbances, within the framework of a wider project for the development of family guidance centres in all the big cities of Cyprus.

(c) The same Department has set up in children's homes a centre for the provision of daily care services to children of families with problems of childcare and supervision.

B. Maternity protection

2. As from October 1980, a new Social Insurance Scheme was put into operation; it incorporates the previous flat rate scheme in a modified structure and in addition provides supplementary earnings-related benefits.

3. The relevant existing legislation is:

(a) The Social Insurance Law No. 41 of 1980;

(b) The Social Insurance (Amending) Laws Nos. 48 of 1982, 11 of 1983, 7 of 1984, 10 of 1985 and 116 of 1985;

(c) The Social Insurance (Contributions) Regulations of 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1986;

(d) The Social Insurance (Benefits) Regulations of 1980, 1983, 1984 and 1985;

(e) The Social Insurance (Increase of Supplementary Benefits) Regulations of 1985 and 1986. 1/

4. The new scheme, like the previous one, covers compulsorily almost all employed and self-employed persons in the island and provides, inter alia, the following benefits.

1. Maternity grant

5. The maternity grant is payable to a women giving birth to a child. The grant is payable provided that she (or her husband) satisfied the relevant contribution conditions on the date of her confinement.

6. The contribution conditions for maternity grant are as follows:

(a) That the insured person's paid insurable earnings in the lower part of insurable earnings are at least equal to 26 times the weekly amount of the basic insurable earnings (these earnings are revised every year. In September 1985, they were £C24.50 and in September 1986, £C27.00);

(b) That his paid and credited insurable earnings, in the last complete contribution year before the beginning of the benefit year which includes the day on which the conditions are required to be satisfied, are at least equal to 20 times the weekly amount of the basic insurable earnings.

7. Provided the above contribution conditions are satisfied, the grant payable is a lump sum equal to £C75.00 in September 1985 and £C83.00 in September 1986.

2. Maternity allowance

8. The maternity allowance, which was confined to employed persons, was extended by Law No. 11 of 1983 to self-employed women. The contribution conditions are the same as those required for the award of maternity grant (see para. 6 above).

9. The maternity allowance is a periodical payment and consists of the basic part and the supplementary part.

(a) Up to 3 November 1985 the weekly amount of the basic part was 60 per cent of the weekly average of paid and credited insurable earnings in the lower part of insurable earnings in the last contribution year before the beginning of the benefit year which included the day on which the contribution conditions were required to be satisfied. This percentage was increased to 80 per cent, 90 per cent and 100 per cent, if the beneficiary had one, two or three dependants, respectively.

(b) The weekly amount of the supplementary part of the maternity allowance was 50 per cent of the weekly average of paid and credited insurable earnings in the upper part of insurable earnings in the last contribution year before the beginning of the benefit year which included the date on which the contribution conditions were required to be satisfied; in no case could the weekly amount of the supplementary benefit exceed the weekly amount of the basic insurable earnings.

(c) As from 4 November 1985 by Law No. 116/85 the weekly amount of the basic and supplementary part of the benefit has been increased from 60 per cent and 50 per cent respectively of the weekly average of paid and credited insurable earnings in the last contribution year to 75 per cent. Increases for dependents have remained the same. Furthermore, there is no limit regarding the amount of the supplementary benefit, which can now exceed the weekly amount of the basic insurable earnings.

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3. Widow's pension

10. In case of death of an insured person, a widow's pension is payable to his widow if at the time of his death he satisfies the contribution conditions and she was living with him or was wholly or mainly maintained by him.

11. The contribution conditions for widow's pension are as follows:

(a) That the insured person's paid insurable earnings in the lower part of insurance earnings are at least equal to 156 times the weekly amount of the basic insurable earnings;

(b) That the weekly average of the insured person's paid and credited insurable earnings in the lower part of insurable earnings for the period beginning on 5 October 1964 or, if he reaches the age of 16 years after 5 October 1964, on the first day of the contribution year in which he reaches that age, and ending with the week before the week which includes the relevant day, is at least equal to 1/4 of the weekly amount of the basic insurable earnings.

12. There are no contribution conditions for the payment of widow's pension in case where the death is the result of an industrial accident or occupational disease.

13. The weekly rate of widow's pension consists of the basic pension and the supplementary pension.

(a) The weekly amount of the basic pension is 60 per cent of the average weekly earnings of the deceased insured husband in the lower part of insurable earnings in the period beginning on 5 October 1964 or on the first day of the contribution year including the insured person's 16th birthday, if this is later than 5 October 1964, and ending with the week before the week in which he reaches the pensionable age. This percentage is increased to 80 per cent, 90 per cent and 100 per cent, if the beneficiary has one, two or three dependants, respectively.

(b) The supplementary amount is 60 per cent of 1/52 of 1.5 per cent of the total amount of the paid and credited insurable earnings of the deceased husband in the upper part of insurable earnings.

4. Minimum pension

14. As from 1 October 1985 by Law No. 116/85 a minimum pension is provided amounting to 50 per cent of the full basic pension.

15. In addition to the above, the Termination of Employment Legislation provides protection to all employees in case of termination of employment. Under this legislation, the employees are entitled to the following rights:

(a) Guarantee of a minimum period of notice in case of termination of employment;

(b) Protection against unjustified dismissals by imposing on the employer a liability for payment of compensation;

(c) Provision of compensation in case of termination of employment because of redundancy; the compensation is paid to the employee out of a special fund which is financed wholly by employers' contributions.

This legislation provides furthermore that termination of employment on behalf of the employer on maternity reasons constitutes unjustified dismissal.

16. A major step towards strengthening the protection of maternity is the enactment of the Law No. 54/87 2/ which provides for:

(a) Maternity leave of 12 weeks duration with pay, equal to 75 per cent of the remuneration;

(b) Protection from dismissal because of pregnancy;

(c) Facilities for breast-feeding and infant nursing;

(d) Protection of pregnant women at the place of work;

(e) Protection of the right of seniority and promotion.

C. Protection of children and young persons

17. During the period under review, the following measures were adopted for the protection of children and young persons:

(a) Ratification by Law No. 36/1986 of the European Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions Concerning Custody of Children and on Restoration of Custody of Children: 3/

(b) Examination, with the assistance of a UNESCO expert, of the existing services for the institutional care of children and young persons. The recommendations made within the framework of this examination are now being reviewed by a technical committee with the aim of restructuring the institutional services in Cyprus;

(c) Preparation by a technical committee of a draft law entitled "A Law to consolidate and amend the Children's Law and the Juvenile Offenders Law and to make further provision for the care or welfare of infants and for purposes connected therewith". This draft is now before the Government for approval;

(d) Study of the Adoption Law [Cap. 274] by a technical committee and preparation of a revised draft law aiming at bringing the existing law in line with international standards and conventions in this field. Rules of Court dealing with adoption were made made sections 9 and 25 (4); 4/

(e) Operation of community welfare centres mainly in refugee settlements. These centres operate as multipurpose institutions for the promotion of the socio-cultural functions of the community providing the following cluster of services:

(i) Day care of children of working mothers;

(ii) Youth centre facilities for recreation and socio-cultural activities involving communities' youth;

(iii) Adults clubs for social contacts and organized community activities promoting participation in community life. At present, 12 community welfare centres are in operation;

(f) Establishment of youth centres which serve as a basic means of providing opportunities for healthy leisure-time activities, social development and creative participation of youth in the social and cultural life of the community;

(g) Operation of a specialized institution for the residential care and treatment of severely retarded children and setting up a new wing for severely retarded adults;

(h) Setting up of a committee consisting of representatives of the appropriate Government services to draft an integrated Government policy concerning children of pre-school age;

(i) Conducting of a study of the problems of children in secondary schools who are not supervised by social workers in preparation of a plan to second social workers to schools for the early identification and prompt offering of preventing services to anti-social or maladjusted youths;

(j) Supervision and licensing of private day-care institutions, as well as of persons who undertake, on payment, the day care of children of pre-school age, in accordance with the provision of the Children's Law mentioned in the initial report submitted by the Government of Cyprus (E/1980/6/Add.3). Today, 191 such day-care centres are in operation;

(k) Subsidizing day-care centres run by voluntary or non-profitmaking organizations. Twenty such centres have been given Government subsidies up to 1987;

(l) Setting up of Government day-care centres in communities with special needs e.g. in refugee settlements;

(m) Extension of the Foster-Home Programme by promoting the institution of group foster homes. New incentives have been introduced to enable foster parents to care for up to seven children.

18. In the area of care and education of physically, mentally or socially handicapped children, and delinquent minors, the Government of Cyprus has taken the following measures:

(a) It undertakes by law responsibility for educating children beween the ages 5 to 18 who fall into categories of the physically, mentally or socially handicapped. According to Law 47/79, 5/ the Council of Ministers is empowered to organize schools and programmes for any of the above throughout Cyprus. This legislation also requires each district in Cyprus to form a committee on the handicapped. Included in this committee must be a phychiatrist, a clinical psychologist, an educational psychologist and a representative from the Welfare Office.

(b) Special attention continues to be given by the Government of Cyprus to providing every child with equal educational opportunities. Pursuing this policy, the Government continues to run special schools for all cagegories of

disabled children. During the school year 1986-1987, there were the following schools: schools for mentally handicapped, schools for emotionally and socially disturbed, schools for the deaf and the blind and schools for physically handicapped children. There were also one Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled People, established by the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, an Institution for Mentally Handicapped Children and two homes for severely handicapped children.

(c) The policy of the Government is not to segregate handicapped children but give them the opportunity to grow and learn together with other children. The aim is to help them learn as much as their abilities and potentialities allow them to do in a normal environment that satisfies both their psychological and physical needs. Therefore, only those children who suffer from such physical, mental, social or emotional problems that make them unable to study and benefit from the ordinary school curriculum are separated. For these children, the Ministry of Education runs the special schools mentioned above. For children with minor problems, there are specialized teachers in normal primary schools.

(d) Special schools provide education and training according to children's potentialities. Children receive instructions under the guidance of specially trained staff.

19. Pursuant to its policy of constant improvement of conditions of work in general and of working conditions of children and young persons, in particular the Government of Cyprus has taken steps to revise the Children and Young Persons (Employment) Law [Cap. 178] 6/ with a view to bringing it in line with improvements to conditions of work which were brought about in the course of time as a result of general conditions and trends. In taking the above steps, the Government of Cyprus has also paid due attention to the standards set in relevant international instruments.

20. The steps being taken in this direction comprise the preparation of a draft law amending the existing one mentioned above. The main improvements foreseen by this law, which are currently under tripartite consideration, concern the following:

(a) Raising of minimum age for admission to employment;

(b) Reducing the hours of work of children and young persons;

(c) Extending the prohibition of night work of children and young persons, to young persons employed in undertakings in which only members of the same family are employed;

(d) Increasing the annual leave with pay of children and young persons.

21. In connection with subparagraph (d) above, it should be mentioned that as a consequence of a recent Ministerial order raising the minimum annual leave period with pay for all employees in Cyprus, children and young persons, who in accordance with the Children and Young Persons (Employment) Law were entitled to 14 days leave, will as from January 1987 enjoy a minimum of three weeks annual leave with pay.

Chapter II

ARTICLE 11: THE RIGHT TO AN ADEQUATE STANDARD OF LIVING

A. General measures

22. During the period under review, the following new measures were taken:

(a) The rates of benefits granted under the Public Assistance legislation were increased in 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1986. 7/

(b) A draft law, amending the Public Assistance Law with a view to improving and modernizing it, has been prepared and is at present before the Government for approval.

(c) The Government has approved, in principle, the introduction of family allowances and a scheme to implement this decision is currently being prepared.

(d) In pursuance of the policy for the improvement of the living conditions of elderly persons, new legislation has been introduced (the Homes for the Elderly and Disabled Persons Law No. 79 of 1981 and the Homes for the Elderly and Disabled Persons Regulations of 1983). 8/ This legislation provides for the regulation and control of old people's homes operated by private individuals or community organizations. It has secured a satisfactory level of services to the aged and provides the possibility for taking legal measures in cases where the services offered are not of the appropriate standard. The total number of old people's homes now registered under the Law is 36: 10 are community operated and 26 are operated by private individuals.

(e) Intensification of the effort for developing non-institutional services for the aged, such as home-help services, day-care centres, substitute family services by the communities. Furthermore, the Department of Welfare Services provides assistance to families with elderly members with a view to strengthening the traditional instituituion of families caring for their elderly members. These services will encourage old people to stay in their own homes, to care for themselves and be self-sufficient.

(f) The old people's homes operated by the State have begun to be utilized also as day-care centres for the elderly or disabled persons who face problems of care and supervision during the day.

B. Right to adequate food

23. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, through the operation of the Cyprus Organization for Standards and Control of Quality (CYS), has recognized that an essential step in ensuring an adequate supply of safe and nutritious food is to develop standards as well as food control systems which will contribute to social and economic development. Compliance with recognized standards is an important factor in the promotion of international trade and in the protection of the consumer against health hazards or fraud.

24. The CYS has implemented an extensive programme of work in the field of food, which has covered such aspects as composition, nutrition, safety, additives, contaminants, pesticide residues, hygiene, labelling, sampling and analysis. These standards cover most of the principal food commodity groups i.e. milk and milk products, cereal and cereal products, oils and fat, canned fruits and vegetables, meat and meat products, soft drinks and squashes. By 1986, 56 standards regarding food products have been published as Cyprus Standards and out of these 34 are being implemented on a compulsory basis.

C. Right to housing

25. Cyprus became independent in 1960. The newly-born republic inherited a serious housing problem which was the result of a bitterly fought independence struggle and an ailing economy. By any standard, the housing stock was aging and lacked basic facilities, while new housing formation could not satisfy but a small fraction of the housing needs. Depsite this disturbing situation, which could easily have led to social unrest, the provision of housing up until 1974 was almost entirely a private concern with little direct or indirect government involvement in the market.

26. However, the period between independence and the Turkish invasion of the island in 1974 was characterized by a remarkable improvement in housing conditions. This could be attributed to the fact that incomes were rising for most of the period at the comfortable rate of 8 per cent per annum, the economy sustained full employment conditions and home ownership was a symbol of success.

27. In 1973, the total number of housing units was estimated at 200,000 and the total number of households at 166,316, amounting to 1.2 housing units per household. In addition, the density of occupation was estimated at one person per room which compares favourably with western Europe.

28. The 1974 invasion of Cyprus by Turkey sharply changed the organizational set-up described above. Major tenets which had sustained the private market philosophy for 14 years changed to such an extent that they could no longer be considered credible. Certain housing policies that were to be launched could not be introduced because the economic environment and priorities had changed.

29. As a result of the Turkish invasion, about 200,000 people were displaced from their homes and became homeless; as they were deprived of their jobs and property they became totally dependent on the Government for accommodation. Incomes fell sharply and there was little prospect for an early recovery; unemployment rose from less than 2 per cent to about 25 per cent.

30. In November 1975, the Government of Cyprus decided to rehouse all the refugees. Today, this ambitious goal is nearly completed. The Department of Town Planning and Housing, under the Ministry of Interior, was appointed to carry out the various housing schemes which are self-help housing on Government land; self-help housing on privately owned land; low-cost housing estates; Turkish houses repair and improvement scheme and flat (apartment) purchase programme.

1. Principal laws, administrative regulations and collective agreement designed to promote the right to housing, and relevant court decisions

31. As mentioned above, housing provision in Cyprus was a private concern before 1974. At that time, the Government was lacking the organizational institutions to cope with the problem. To remedy the situation, the Government proceeded in 1980 with the establishment of two housing corporations. One is actually a building society, the Housing Finance Corporation, and the other is like a housing association and is named the Cyprus Land Development Corporation.

32. The functions of the Housing Finance Corporation are similar to those of building societies in the United Kingdom. It accepts deposits and advances loans for the purchase of a house or a flat or for the construction of a house on a plot owned by the applicant. The lending rate is 7 per cent for applicants with a family income not exceeding £C 4,000 per annum, 8.5 per cent for incomes between £C 4,000 and 8,000 and 9 per cent for families earning more than £C 8,000 per annum. Priority is given to families earning less than £C 8,000 yearly. The repayment period is 15-20 years. The practice at the moment is that the amount of the loan should not exceed two and a half to three times the income of the family.

33. The main functions of the Cyprus Land Development Corporation are to acquire land, construct the required infrastructure and subdivide the same into building plots for sale to families with lower and middle incomes; and to promote generally the development of programmes which aim to facilitate the supply of more and better housing to families of lower and middle incomes. To achieve its functions, the Corporation is vested with compulsory purchase powers. The Land Development Corporation can only sell to families of lower and middle incomes. The upper limit of a middle income family has been fixed at £C 8,000. A prerequisite for the approval of an application to purchase a house, flat or building plot from the Corporation is that the family should not own a house or a building plot. The Corporation started its operation in 1983 with two projects, one in Nicosia and one in Paphos. The former involved the construction of an estate of 90 housing units at a cost of £C 2 million and the latter the subdivision of land into 70 building plots.

34. There is no doubt that the two corporations will greatly assist the lower and middle income families to acquire their own house. Yet there are still families which cannot take advantage of the facilities the two corporations offer due to the fact that they either do not possess the required down-payment or cannot afford to pay the high monthly instalments. For these families there is not at present any programme in operation but the Government is actively studying this matter.

2. Measures taken, including specific programmes, subsidies and tax incentives, to expand housing construction to meet the needs of all categories of the population, particularly low-income families

35. Following the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, 200,000 refugees (about 45,000 displaced families) were left homeless and deprived of all other property. In order to prommote the objective of improving housing conditions for displaced persons, the Government introduced the following programmes or policies.

(a) Low-cost housing programme: under this programme, between 1975 and 1986, the Government built 12,485 houses in comprehensively designed housing estates. Displaced families are accorded the right to make use of these houses, rent-free, for as long as political conditions dictate it.

(b) Self-help housing scheme on Government land: under this scheme, which provides for serviced plots as well as a grant-in-aid, 9,715 houses were built by displaced families during 1975-1986.

(c) Self-help housing scheme on privately owned land: under this scheme, which provides for a grant-in-aid as well as for a low-interest loan, 9,000 houses were built by refugees who acquired a plot by their own means between 1976-1986.

(d) Turkish houses repair and improvement scheme: under this scheme, the Government has undertaken to repair and maintain Turkish Cypriot houses in the areas controlled by the legitimate Government of the Republic. Until the end of 1986, about 7,500 houses have given temporary accommodation to an equal number of displaced families to whom it has been made clear that they can retain these houses until the return of their legal owners.

(e) Flat (apartment) purchase programme: under this programme, the Government provides grants as well as long-term low-interest loans to eligible displaced families for the purchase of a flat from the private sector. Until the end of 1986, about 1,000 eligible displaced families were satisfied under this programme.

The size of the Government's effort towards displaced families can be assessed if one takes into account that, for the period 1975-1986, the Government made available to refugees about 39,700 suitable houses.

36. Despite the emphasis given to the accommodation of displaced persons, the Government has not neglected housing for other special groups, especially the elderly. In particular, recently, there has been a shift of emphasis towards bed-sitting-room accommodation and one-bedroom houses especially designed for old people. In addition, between 1975 and 1986, the Government built seven old peoples' homes which provide care for about 300 people.

37. Raising resources to fund the various programmes which operate in favour of special groups can be singled out as the most serious problems facing the Government. The magnitude of the resources committed in this effort are a cause of concern for two reasons:

(a) With foreign aid drying out and with the prospect of a lower economic growth than before, fund raising is bound to become more difficult;

(b) Housing for refugees drains out resources with the likelihood of adversely affecting investment activities in other sectors.

3. Information on the use of scientific and technical knowledge and of international co-operation for developing and improving housing construction, including safety measures against earthquakes, floods and other natural hazards

38. In Cyprus, there is no building research establishment and research is very limited. The Higher Technical Institute is the main place where some work is done in the field of research and experimentation; however, the Institute is mainly concentrated in energy-saving research, making use of the sun and wind.

39. On the other hand, many establishments, such as the Cyprus Productivity Centre, the Industrial Training Authority, the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance and some large construction firms are introducing new training schemes aiming at meeting the specific needs of the building industry and improving the skills of the workers.

40. Standardization and adoption of typical designs were little used before 1974 but are now gaining ground, particularly with the construction of standarized housing by Government on a large scale. In 1975, the Cyprus Organisation for Standards and Control Quality started operating. One of its aims is to promote the standardization of all building component units or assemblies in terms of size, modular co-ordination and quality. Despite this, standardization in the building industry is still at low levels because housing is mostly controlled by the private sector and the individual.

41. Finally, the Fire Regulations have been recently revised and Earthquake Regulations are in force since January 1986. Since floods and other natural hazards are not important parameters in the construction equation, further research has not been considered essential.

4. Measures taken or envisaged to solve the special problems of housing, water supply and sanitary conditions in rural areas

42. On the evidence of tables 2 and 3 (see subsection 6 below) referring to the condition of the housing stock, the conclusion can be drawn that housing in rural areas is inferior to that in urban areas. Generally speaking, this is explained by the fact that the rural housing stock is older than that in urban areas while income differentials between the urban and rural areas might be a contributing factor. However, in general, sanitary as well as other housing conditions are fairly satisfactory in rural areas; measures taken along these lines are designed for the whole of Cyprus where the same standards are applicable.

5. Measures taken for the protection of tenants, such as rent control and legal guarantees

43. The main provisions with regard to rent control are contained in the Rent of Immovable Property for the Housing of Refugees Law of 1978. In accordance with this Law, a Rent Authority has been established with powers to: fix rents paid by refugees; pay rent allowances for low income refugees; act as a court in settling disputes and other.

44. With regard to the regulations of rents for tenants who are not displaced, there exists another law, which provides for the courts to regulate rent increases with regard to these tenants.

Table 1: Rent Increase 1982-1984

Year	Rent
1982	107.64
1983	110.69
1984	114.34

Source: Economic Report, 1984.

6. Statistical and other available data on the realization of the right to housing

Table 2: Persons per room

Year	Persons per room		
	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas
1976	1.52	1.40	1.64
1982	0.78	0.76	0.82

Source: Census of Housing, 1982.

Table 3: Basic facilities

Facility	Urban areas		Rural areas	
	1976	1982	1976	1982
1. Bath/shower	73	87	30	58
2. Kitchen	92	98	74	92
3. Pipe water	93	99	67	98
4. Electricity	97	99	87	96
5. Toilet facilities	N.A.	95	N.A.	68

Source: Census of Housing, 1982.

CHAPTER III

ARTICLE 12: THE RIGHT TO PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH

45. There have been no essential developments in the rights laid down by article 12 since the last report. The few new elements are presented below.

A. Measures taken to reduce the stillbirth rate and infant mortality

46. The low percentage of stillbirths and infant mortality in Cyprus is due to the successful services provided by all district hospitals, 3 rural hospitals, 22 rural health centres and 154 sub-centres which cover the health needs of the urban and rural population. The most important measures taken to reduce the stillbirth and infant mortality rates are the following.

1. Care of expectant mothers

47. Special educational programmes for mothers or for both parents which include lectures and projection of films have been launched. In the rural areas, this role is undertaken by the health visitors and midwives within the framework of their duties.

2. Infant welfare

48. Immunization covers 90 per cent of the child population due to the advanced level of literacy and the easy accessiblility of hospitals, rural health centres or private practitioners. Vaccinations commence between the age of 3-4 months and include DPT and polio in three does with a booster dose at the age of 2 years, and measles at the age of 15 months. Additional booster doses of DT and polio are given at the age of 5-6, of T and polio at the age of 10 and tetanus to girls of 15-16 years of age. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health in its effort to restrict the birth of children with congenital anomalies has introduced, since 1979, systematic immunization for rubella for schoolgirls between the age of 11-14.

49. Other measures or factors that have contributed to the reduction of infant mortality rate which is now 12.0 per 1,000 live births are the general socio-economic development of Cyprus, the increased awareness of people about factors that affect child health and the high standard of environmental sanitation.

B. Measures taken for the healthy development of children

50. This area was covered in detail in the initial report of Cyprus (E/1980/6/Add.3). The only change is that education in Cyprus is now free up to the age of 18 and compulsory up to the age of 15.

C. Measures taken to protect and improve all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene, to prevent pollution, etc.

51. A special Service for the promotion of industrial hygiene and the prevention of occupational diseases has been established within the Factory Inspectorate of the Department of Labour of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance; special regulations have been issued for the control of toxic and

harmful substances, the general protection of the working environment and the provision of the necessary facilities for the health and welfare of the workers. Specialized personnel were appointed to take care of both the medical and the industrial hygiene aspect of the Service.

52. As regards general environmental hygiene, the Government is currently pursuing a programme with foreign expert assistance and financial aid, for the identification of the sources of pollution and their subsequent control through special legislation which is being elaborated. Specialized personnel have been appointed within the Factory Inspectorate and are now carrying out the necessary surveys under the guidance of foreign experts. Training of local personnel has already been undertaken both in Cyprus and abroad, and will enable the work to be continued in the future.

53. Other areas in which measures were taken for the protection and improvement of environmental and industrial hygiene are the following:

(a) Food: frequent inspections and sampling of foodstuff are carried out so as to verify whether they are fit for human consumption. Samples of agricultural products are taken for examination for pesticide residues so as to verify whether they are within acceptable limits. Foodstuff is also examined for food additives.

(b) Sea water: in order to safeguard the health of the population and to avoid pollution of sea, the Health Service of the Ministry of Health carries out regular sampling of sea water for microbiological examination from 145 monitoring stations. It also gives expert advice on problematic cases.

(c) Swimming pools: while there is no legislation on swimming pools, the installations are frequently inspected by Health Inspectors: records are kept for pH and chlorine residual and sampling is carried out for microbiological examination of the water.

(d) Sewerage systems: inspections are carried out in the sewerage systems of houses and other buildings as well as in sewage treatment plants. Sampling of sewage is done so as to establish the efficiency of the treatment plants.

D. Comprehensive schemes and specific measures, including vaccination programmes, to prevent, treat and control epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases and accidents in urban and rural areas

54. An important new element is the creation, in 1981, of the Thalassaemia Centre which has two main targets: prevention and control of this hereditary disease and treatment of the homozygotes born. The preventive programme which was so successful that it gained recognition from WHO included the screening of the population at risk (young engaged couples, school leavers, etc.) to find the stigma carriers; pre-natal counselling; ante-natal tests in couples suffering from stigma and termination of pregnancy in the case of homozygotes foetuses; and health education. During 1983, six homozygotes were born while during 1985 only one homozygote was born. The treatment of the sufferers includes frequent blood-transfusions, control of the iron accumulation of the body, etc.; it is offered completely free of charge to all patients.

E. Comprehensive plans and specific measures to assure to all age groups and all other categories of the population adequate health services

55. In the period under examination, the Ministry of Health has established 22 rural health centres, 152 sub-centres and 3 rural hospitals. Each rural health centre with its subcentre provides primary health care to all the population it covers, while the rural hospitals provide also secondary care to the population concerned.

F. Statistical and other available data on the realization of the right to health

56. In 1986, the infant mortality rate was 12.0 per 1,000 live births.

57. Number of doctors, dentists and nurses: In 1986, there were 260 Government doctors and 651 private practitioners; the ratio was 601 persons per doctor. There were 34 Government dentists and 296 private dentists in 1986 with a ratio of 1,659 persons per dentist. As for the nurses, i in 1985 they numbered 1,818 in Government hospitals (out of whom 198 were student nurses) and 555 in private practice; the ratio was 248persons per nurse.

58. Number of hospital beds in 1986: There were a total of 1,909 beds in Government facilities with the following breakdown: district hospitals (999); special hospitals (802); rural hospitals (88); and rural health centres (20). The ratio was 162 persons/bed. Private clinics had 1,517 beds available. The total number of beds was thus 3,426. In theory, each nurse could therefore attend to approximately 1.5 beds.

59. Attendances at Government Hospitals and other Government Health Institutions in 1986: The number of out-patients attending health facilities (incl. phyisotherapy, chest clinics, M.C.H. Centres, dispensaries for dressings and infections, dental clinics) was 1,017,016. The number of in-patients discharged was 38,684. The number of hospital days totalled 272,728.

Notes

1/ These laws and regulations, in the language in which they were submitted by the Government of Cyprus, may be consulted at the United Nations Centre for Human Rights.

2/ See note 1.

3/ See note 1.

4/ See note 1.

5/ See note 1.

6/ See note 1.

7/ See note 1.

8/ See note 1.

ANNEX

List of reference documents */

1. The Social Insurance Laws 1980-1987 (unified text in English) and copies of the Social Insurance Regulations issued thereunder (in Greek).

2. The protection of Maternity Law No. 54 of 1987 (in Greek).

3. Law No. 36/86 entitled "European Convention on Recognition and Enforcement of Decisions concerning Custody of Children and on Restoration of Custody of Children".

4. (a) The Adoption Law [Cap. 274] and the Rules of Court made under Sections 9 and 25 (4) thereunder.

(b) Law regulating the establishment and function of special Schools No. 47/79 (in Greek).

5. The Children and Young Persons (Employment) Law [Cap. 178].

6. The Public Assistance and Services Law No. 10/75 and the amending Laws Nos. 40/76 and 31/81, the Public Assistance and Services Regulations of 1978, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1986 (in Greek).

7. The Home for the Elderly and Disabled Persons Law No. 79/81 and the Regulations of 1983 issued thereunder (in Greek).

8. Replies to questions raised and observations made in the Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts of the Economic and Social Council during the consideration of the initial report.

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*/ These documents, in the language in which they were submitted by the Government of Cyprus, may be consulted at the United Nations Centre for Human Rights.